

36. (Twice Amended) Injection molding apparatus comprising:

an array of injection nozzles, each nozzle having a plurality of melt channels and a plurality of valve pins movable within the melt channel, each valve pin having a driven portion and a tip end that controls melt flow through a mold gate;

a melt distribution manifold in fluid communication with the array of injection nozzles; and

an actuating assembly for displacing the valve pins of the array of injection nozzles, comprising at least one actuator and a common linkage element driven by the actuator and linked to the driven portions of all of the valve pins of the array of injection nozzles to move the valve pins in unison, wherein the common linkage element moves along the same direction as the valve pins and the at least one actuator is located under the manifold.

38. (Amended) Injection molding apparatus comprising:

an array of injection nozzles, each nozzle having a melt channel and a valve pin movable within the melt channel, each valve pin having a driven portion and a tip end that controls melt flow through a mold gate;

a melt distribution manifold in fluid communication with the array of injection nozzles; and

an actuating assembly for displacing the valve pins of the array of injection nozzles, comprising at least one actuator and a common linkage element driven by the actuator and linked to the driven portions of all of the valve pins of the array of injection nozzles to move the valve pins in unison, wherein the common linkage element moves along the same direction as the valve pins and the at least one actuator is located under the manifold and is centrally located among the injection nozzles.

41. (New) Injection molding apparatus comprising:

an array of injection nozzles, each nozzle having a melt channel and a valve pin movable within the melt channel, each valve pin having a driven portion and a tip end that controls melt flow through a mold gate;

a melt distribution manifold in fluid communication with the array of injection nozzles; and

an actuating assembly for displacing the valve pins of the array of injection nozzles, comprising at least one multiple-piston actuator and a common linkage element driven by the actuator and linked to the driven portions of all of the valve pins of the array of injection nozzles to move the valve pins in unison, wherein the common linkage element moves along the same direction as the valve pins and the at least one actuator is located under the manifold.

42. (New) Injection molding apparatus according to claim 41, wherein each nozzle has a plurality of melt channels and a plurality of valve pins.